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He Knoweth Best.

God knows what keys in hearts to touch
Therefrom to draw the sweetest strain,
The loftier notes of joy's glad song,
Or melodies made soft by pain.
And some with plaintive air must walk!
In lowly vales of weary way,
While others in some happier clime,
Upon the mount of joy may stay.
But in the grand ascending song,
In chorus sweet they all unite,
No jar or discord in the strain
That floats along the hills of light.
Or pain or joy our harpstrings tune,
Before a loving Father's throne,
Our sweet symphonious song shall rise,
Thy will, O Lord, not ours be done."
—E. W. CHAPMAN, SALEM GAZETTE.

Oakland, Pa.

Bro. J. B. Wampler came among us on the 8th of December, to remain several days. On account of a meeting here in our immediate vicinity, we did not have any appointments. But brother Wampler preached several times, filling the Free Baptist minister's pulpit. We met December 11th, and, after consultation, unanimously adopted the following preamble and Resolutions:

Inasmuch as the Brethren church has always taught that the Gospel of Christ is an all-sufficient rule in religion, and that all creeds, mandates and confessions of faith are man-made, and, hence, not of God; and

Whereas, annual meeting has departed from the principles of the gospel in declaring her decision, mandatory and a rule to all the churches, thereby making void the word of God, and tolerating elder rules; and

Whereas, the deacons of the Redbank congregation have, and still do usurp power not given them by the gospel, thus hindering the progress of the cause of Christ and thereby jeopardizing the salvation of souls, therefore,

Be it Resolved, That we declare ourselves the Brethren church of the Redbank District, taking the gospel alone as our rule of faith and practice, as handed down by our early church fathers, and as reaffirmed by the Brethren church in 1882, at Ashland, Ohio.

We now number eighteen with encouraging prospects for more to follow. Now since we have broken the yoke of church rule and official power, let us go on to perfection, brethren and sisters, walking in humble obedience to the commands of the blessed Lord and his precious truth, which is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.—Paul.

We expect to hold a series of meetings in the near future. Brethren and sisters every where, do not forget the band of brethren and sisters in the Redbank District, always making mention of us in your prayers to God that a great ingathering may be realized at our meeting, and that we may all be gathered home with all the redeemed and bloodwashed in the harvest of this world.

D. J. HETRIC.

North Manchester, Ind.

It has been some time since you have heard from this place. But it can be said of the brethren and sisters here that they are greatly interested in the cause of Christ, and try to live close to

Him. We have preaching here every Sunday in the month except the fourth Sunday, when our good brother goes to Bracken and holds forth the word of God. He is W. W. Summers. Today he goes to Somerset. May the Lord bless his labors there. One more came out on the Lord's side last night, may the Lord bless her.

We have Sunday school every Sabbath, and prayer meeting every Friday evening. I would like to hear more from the young sisters. Where is Laura Grossnickle? Come sister let us hear from you. We may be strangers in this world, but I hope we may know each other in the brighter world.

CORA M. GROSSNICKLE.
Dec. 13th.

West Independence, Ohio.

Dec. 17.—Bro. Jas. A. Ridenour was here last month and held for us a short, but interesting series of meetings. His sermons were edifying and instructive, and were much appreciated by our people. The immediate result of his labor, was one valuable addition to our number.

Our meetings were closed too soon, as is the usual cry—brethren would it not be for the good of the cause to hold fewer protracted efforts, and continue them longer? I have learned from observation and experience, that many of our revival meetings are closed while sinners are under conviction, or "counting the cost" when a few more meetings would be the means of converting them to God, but they are left to grow cold, and indifferent, their hearts become hardened and it usually requires twice the effort to impress them with a sense of duty the second time.

Is not this abridgement of our protracted efforts a detriment to the cause?

Sister Mary Bower, and her daughters, Agnes and Bertha, are visiting friends in Knox Co., we miss them in the Sabbath School and Bible class.

On the 12th, inst, we were with the brethren at Bellefontaine, Logan Co. May the Lord give them sustaining grace, and ever keep them faithful in their isolated condition, is my prayer.

A. M. RIDENOUR.

Dallas Center, Iowa.

This is a pleasant Railroad town, whose inhabitants have been, for the past few days, conversing as though some strange event had occurred. The skeptic and moralist say the prope was removed from under our doctrine and we was let down so easy we could take no offence. Did not our hearts grow warm with love as we heard the Scriptures expounded; the solemnity that thrilled our better judgment as we entered the Brethren church, to witness their communion service.—These are common expression of our once quiet little town. In the midst of these interesting events brother Mallott was called to attend his pastoral work and close the door to good interest after two weeks of earn-

est labor. None but those who are acquainted with brother Mallott can realize how we regretted to close the meeting; neither can he realize how thankful we are for the good work he did in our community. We also thank the Waterloo brethren and sisters for sending help in time of need. May your reward be life eternal.

Bro. Mallott left Dallas, with the best wishes of all.

Three dear sisters were added to our number. A pleading look on every countenance says come again.

CLARA FLORA.

Edna Mills, Ind.

Seeing nothing from Edna for quite a while, I thought I would give the doings of the people here. Bro. Rittgers came among us a few weeks ago and filled our regular appointments at Pleasant Hill. Two united with the church as reported by Ida Michael. The following week he preached at the Spring Mills school house and baptized a brother who united at Pleasant Hill, and four more were made willing to follow the example of their Savior. Bro. Rittgers closed his meetings at the school house on Sabbath evening, intending to give us a few meetings at Edna. But our German Baptist friends refused us the use of the house at that time, so we had to abandon it for the present. They claim an interest in the house, so we allowed them to use it first. But we expect Bro. Rittgers back some time this winter, to give us a series of meetings.

Bro. Ditch came here to fill the regular appointment at Edna, Oct. 13th. But the writer received the intelligence a few days ago that we could not use the house Sabbath evening. Bro. Ditch gave us an able discourse at 10:30 a. m. He will stay over next Lord's day, and fill our regular appointment at Pleasant Hill.

J. B. METZGER.

Peru, Ind.

Dec. 12.—On the evening of the 11th, I filled my first appointment at Somerset; had a fair congregation. I tried to preach on Saturday evening, Sunday and Sunday evening. On Monday Bro. Summers, of Manchester was with me. The weather was very bad and the nights dark, so we had not much of a congregation till Wednesday evening, when the crowd was fair and each evening after. We left on Friday. Brother Summers continued the meeting Friday night, but when interest was awakened so he could do something, he had to quit. The Brethren are alive and the best of workers. If there is any thing to do, they do it with all their might. I think they will have a meeting in the town of Somerset (this being four miles west) this winter. Bro. Fitzgerald has promised to give them one. We can count on a large church at Somerset in the near future. Pray for us that the work may go on.

J. M. FOX.

Sweet Home, Ind.

Dec. 17.—There has been four accessions to the church at this place since our last report. Three by baptism, and one from the G. B's. Bro. J. M. Rittgers is still our pastor. Through his influence many have been made to cry out, What must I do to be saved. His sole object seems to be to further the cause of Christ. May the Lord bless him in his good work and give him wisdom to influence many others who are yet out of the ark of safety, to come into the fold of Christ.

On the eve of Dec. 9th, the Brethren at this place met and organized a Theological School. The object of this school is to encourage Bible study. We had our first lesson (1st, 2nd and 3rd chapters of John) last evening; much interest was taken by those present and we feel that by exchanging ideas on passages of scripture that we do not thoroughly understand, we can in this way help one another to rightly divide the word of truth.

JOSEPH AUGUSTINE.

Falls City Items.

I arrived here safely with a part of my family and will soon enter upon my duties as pastor of the church at this place as the Lord gives me grace for the work before me. Bro. Hendricks from Jasper county, Mo., preached in the Brethren church on Friday and Saturday nights, and also on Sunday night. Bro. Hendricks preaches the gospel with considerable natural eloquence and should not be idle in the cause.

The brethren have shown us much kindness since our arrival and have made us to feel that we have found fellowship among them. May we so walk that the fraternal tie may be strengthened as we become better acquainted with one another.

E. L. YODER.

Dec. 11, 1886.

Notes by the Way.

Our meeting closed at Benshoff Hill with 16 additions by baptism and it was a season of great rejoicing to see the aged, middle aged and young, come and walk with Christ. During these meetings Bro. R. Z. Replogle preached us an able sermon, and Bro. Benj. Gochnour gave us two excellent discourses, and was our baptist. Thanks brethren for your assistance.

Our protracted work will commence at Fair View, on Friday, 17th, inst. Bro. E. H. Smith, of Plumville, will be our assistant during this meeting. Hope we may have a large ingathering.

S. W. SMOUSE.

Vinco, Pa., Dec. 15, 1886.

Nappanee, Ind.

Our meetings closed on the evening of the 10th, with 16 additions. We feel proud of the work done here. Bro. Bashor made many friends while here, and he may feel assured that his efforts are still at work going forth battling for the right.

We organized last February

with six members and we now number thirty five.

PERRY A. EARLY.

Dec. 13th.

Pasadena, Cal.

We live in Pasadena, and are isolated members. We have no members here of the Brethren church, but see by the EVANGELIST that Bro. Chas. P. Folkerth and family are in Los Angeles, some 8 miles from us; have not had the pleasure of meeting them yet. I wrote them and have received and answer, stating they had a very sick child, which I hope is better. We get the EVANGELIST regularly and see that the good cause is moving on.

J. C. AND ROSE STUDEBAKER.

Two Short Essays by College Students.

A GOOD HEART NECESSARY TO ENJOY THE BEAUTIES OF NATURE.

Read at the Young People's meeting at the College, Dec. 19th, by Minnie Oaks.

First, we want to know what a good heart is.

Is it a heart that is continually doing wrong and rejoicing over it? Or is it a heart that tries to make the world believe there is no such a place as heaven or hell and that all the punishment we receive will be here in this world and that we will not receive punishment hereafter for our wrong doing? No. It is neither.

A good heart is one that tries to build one another up and tries to convert the sinner and tell him of that happy home across the sea. And without such a heart can we enjoy any of the beauties of nature as well as with it? Without it we do not realize the beauties of nature and the good of an all-wise Creator; but with it we are continually thinking when we see something new, how great He is. First,—all in creating the earth and placing man upon it, and forming all the beings upon the earth, and also forming everything for man's sustenance.

When man came upon the earth everything was here. Can we repay God enough for it? No; it is impossible.

Some of us, and I am afraid too many, are not as we should be. We do not realize that our indebtedness to God is as great as it is. Let us create within us a better heart. Let us reverence God more than we do.

What Should Christians do?

Read at the Young People's meeting at the College, Dec. 19th, by E. E. Metzger.

Christians should be followers of Christ. We should walk in his footsteps, and do as he did when he was on the earth. We should obey his commandments, and follow the example which he has given us. We should let our lights so shine that men may see our good work and be glorified in them. We should be a light to the world, and show the people by our actions that we are truly followers of Christ.

Christians should try to win souls to Christ; that is all Christians, not only the ministers, but every professor, there can be much good done for the cause of Christ outside of the pulpit.